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Message Text

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ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 /059 W
----------101654 290019Z /15
R 282332Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9919
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MEXICO 07106

FOR LABOR OFFICERS ACTION POSTS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, CI, PINT
SUBJECT: ORIT DEL PINO'S REFLECTIONS ON HIS SOUTHERN TRIP

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 3072 (B) BRASILIA 3145
(C) SANTIAGO 2639

1. LABOR ATTACHE MET WITH ORIT GEN. SECY. DEL PINO AND TREASURER VERDU APRIL 27 FOR LENGTHY RECITAL OF EVENTS OF HIS RECENT TRIP WITH ICFTU ENZO FRISO. HE TERMED THIS SWING THE BEST HE HAD MADE TO DATE AND FELT IT WAS AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS FROM SEVERAL ANGLES. HE FEELS
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THAT ICFTU, PARTICULARLY AS WAS REFLECTED BY FRISO'S CONDUCT ON THIS TRIP, HAS LOST THE LAST TRACES OF ANY INTENTION THEY MIGHT HAVE HAD TOWARD CONTROLLING ORIT, AND HAVE RESOLVED TO PLAY THE "GOOD BROTHER" (BUEN COMPANERO) ROLE IN AN EFFORT TO SALVAGE SOME INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA. THEY INTEND TO CHANNEL CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF MONEY DONATED BY EUROPEAN AFFILIATES TO

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LATIN AMERICA BOTH FOR TRADE UNION PROGRAMS AND "HUMANITARIAN" CAUSES (PREFERABLY FOR DESTITUTE WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES) IN THE FUTURE BUT WILL ATTACH NO STRINGS TO THESE DONATIONS. ALL FUNDS WILL BE EITHER DISBURSED THROUGH ORIT OR WITH THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND CONSENT, AND ORIT WILL HAVE FULL CONTROL OVER THE END TO WHICH THE FUNDS ARE USED (SEMINAR CONTENT, RECIPIENT UNION'S USE OF THE MONEY, ETC.). AS AN EXAMPLE OF THIS DESIRE TO MEND THEIR WAYS, DEL PINO SAID IT WAS FRISO WHO INSISTED THEY CALL ON THE AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE AND THE U.S. LABOR OFFICER IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES THEY VISITED.

2. DEL PINO FELT THE MAJOR VALUE OF THE TRIP WAS THE EDUCATION IT AFFORDED HIM AND THE RELATIONSHIPS WITH TRADE UNION LEADERS WHICH WERE DEVELOPED. HE FEELS THAT HE RETURNED WITH A MUCH BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF SOUTHERN CONE LABOR AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS. A COUNTRY BY COUNTRY ACCOUNT OF HIS MISCELLANEOUS REMARKS FOLLOWS:

PERU - THE CNT WHICH RECENTLY DISAFFILIATED FROM CLAT WILL PROPOSE AFFILIATION WITH ORIT IN THE MAY CONGRESS. THEY ASKED FOR AN $8,000 GRANT FROM ICFTU TO HELP PAY THE EXPENSES OF THIS CONGRESS BUT IT IS DOUBT-FUL ICFTU CAN APPROVE IT BEFORE THE CONGRESS. THE CTP CONFIDENTIAL

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WILL ENDORSE THE AFFILIATION REQUEST.

BOLIVIA - DEL PINO WAS UNIMPRESSED BY THE ORIT AFFILIATE AND FEELS THAT ORIT SHOULD BROADEN ITS EFFORTS TO ATTRACT OTHER UNIONS. HE HAS $40,000 FOR "HUMANI-TARIAN" AID AND PRESENTLY PLANS TO SEND IN AN ACTIVIST TO DISTRIBUTE THE MONEY AND MAKE AN EFFORT TO ATTRACT SUITABLE AFFILIATES OVER A SEVERAL MONTH PERIOD.

CHILE - THEY MET WITH JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY EXCEPT THE GOC THERE. DEL PINO CAME AWAY WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THE "DINAMICO" WERE THE ONLY GROUP WORTH SUPPORTING IN THE TRADE UNION FIELD.

THEY MET WITH CARDINAL SILVA ENRIQUEZ TO GET HIS ADVICE ON WHICH ORGANIZATION THEY SHOULD CHANNEL THEIR "HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS" FOR CHILE THROUGH. THE CARDINAL SUGGESTED THAT PASTORAL OBRERA WOULD BE HIS PREFERRED CHOICE SINCE THE CARDIJN FOUNDATION WAS INOPERATIVE, AND RECEIVED NO CHURCH SUPPORT SINCE THEY HAD FOUND THAT A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF THEIR PAST FUNDING WENT TO "ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT." ICFTU INTENDS TO

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FOLLOW THE CARDINAL'S SUGGESTION IN THE FUTURE.

DEL PINO SAID EDUARDO RIOS IS PRESENTLY IN BELGIUM AND WILL GO TO SWEDEN AT THE INVITATION OF THE SCANDINAVIAN LO. HE FEELS THIS VISIT COMBINED WITH A RECENT VISIT TO CHILE BY A THREE-MAN SWEDISH DELEGATION WILL JUST ABOUT CONVINCE THE SCANDINAVIANS THAT THE "DINAMICOS" MERIT THEIR SUPPORT MORE THAN THE CUT-EXILE CROWD. FRISO AND DEL PINO MET WITH SOCIALISTS, COM-

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MEXICO 07106

FOR LABOR OFFICERS ACTION POSTS

MUNISTS, RADICALS AND ACCORDING TO DEL PINO, "SOME I COULDN'T IDENTIFY." THESE VISITS WERE MADE TO COVER FRISO WITH HIS SOCIALIST SUPPORTING ICFTU AFFILIATES, BUT PRODUCED VERY LITTLE. DEL PINO TERMED THE SOCIALISTS TO BE THE "HARDEST, MOST EXTREME AND UNYIELDING" THAT HE HAD EVER MET.

DEL PINO HAD NO INFORMATION ON HOW THE GOC HAD REACTED TO THE NEWS THEY RECEIVED IN BRAZIL THAT THE "DINAMICOS" HAD ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A NEW CON-

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FEDERATION (BRASILIA 3145).

ARGENTINA - THEY DECIDED AGAINST ANY DISTRIBUTION OF
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THE DUTCH NVV $44,000 DONATION. DONAIRES APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED ABOUT THE MONEY SO NEITHER FRISO OR DEL PINO MENTIONED IT (HE WOULD NOT ELABORATE). THEY MET WITH THE COLONEL WHO MONITORS THE "GROUP OF 25" (INTERVENTOR) AND TOLD HIM THAT ORIT-ICFTU RECOGNIZES ONLY THE "25" IN ARGENTINA, AND WITH THE LABOR MINISTER WHERE THEY EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE ILO WORKER DELEGATE WOULD COME FROM THE "25."

DEL PINO'S REMARKS ABOUT THE NEW CGT (COMISION DE GESTION) WERE CONTEMPTUOUS (HE TOUCHED HIS NOSE, SNIFFED AND SAID "PURO MILICO").

RESPONSE TO BUENOS AIRES 3072": COMMENT -- WE THINK YOU MAY BE OVERLY CONCERNED THAT DEL PINO MAY TURN ORIT INTO A REGIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE ICFTU. ON THOSE OCCASIONS WHEN HE BARES HIS SOUL, HE MAKES IT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT HE DOES NOT INTEND TO LET THIS HAPPEN. HE DOES FEEL HOWEVER THAT ICFTU IS MAKING A SINCERE ATTEMPT TO GET ALONG WITH THE AFL-CIO AND THAT THE LATTER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE FORMER (IN THE ORIT CONTEXT) IS ALSO CONDUCIVE TO A NEW ERA OF "PRODUCTIVE COOPERATIVISM" AMONG ALL THE FORCES. "ORIT OF COURSE IS IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SANDWICH AND MY JOB SHOULD BE TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES AND MAKE ORIT A RESPECTED AND EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION." HE MAKES NO BONES THAT HE SIDES WITH THE AFL-CIO ON THE RECENT DIFFERENCES OR THAT HE WOULD AGAIN. LABATT PLANS TO DO A REPORT IN LATE MAY EVALUATING THE FIRST YEAR OF THE NEW ORIT TEAM, WHICH WILL CONTAIN MUCH ON DEL PINO'S POSITION AND EFFORTS, THE ORIT PROGRAM AND FINANCIAL SITUATION.

URUGUAY - WHILE HE DID NOT DEFINITELY COMMIT HIMSELF,
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DEL PINO TALKED LIKE HE WOULD SUPPORT A MOVE TO SUSPEND THE CGTU FROM THE ICFTU AT THE COMING HAMBURG MEETING. HE WAS VERY UNIMPRESSED BY THE CGTU DURING HIS VISIT AND SUPPORTED A REQUEST FROM THE PARAGUAYAN EXILE GROUP TO FRISO FOR FUTURE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. HE COMMENTED THAT HE WOULD RATHER HAVE "BORASAS" (SOUNDED LIKE)

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TRANSPORT FEDERATION AS AN AFFILIATE THAN THE CGTU.

BRAZIL - DEL PINO RAVED ABOUT THE EXCELLENT WORK AIFLD'S MIKE HAMMER IS DOING WITH THE YOUNGER LEADERS. HE HAS THE FEELING THAT THE NEXT FEW YEARS MIGHT PRODUCE A STRONG MOVEMENT TOWARD "THROWING OFF THE YOKE WHICH THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT HAS PLACED ON THE UNIONS, AND FEELS THOSE WHOM HAMMER IS DEVELOPING WILL BE THE FUTURE LEADERS.

ARI CAMPISTA TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD SEEK AUTHORIZATION FOR ORIT AFFILIATION IN HIS JUNE CONGRESS, BANK AND METAL WORKERS WANT TO AFFILIATE ALSO BUT DON'T LIKE CAMPISTA. DEL PINO SAID THE LATTER MIGHT RETIRE SOON PERMITTING A BIG NEW AFFILIATION (IF THE GOB APPROVES).

THERE SEEMS TO BE GENUINE SUPPORT AMONG THE BRAZILIAN LEADERS FOR POSTING AN ORIT REPRESENTATIVE THERE, BUT THEY ARE SORT OF PICKY ABOUT WHOM IT MIGHT BE. SINCE, AMONG OTHERS, THE BRAZILIANS DO NOT WANT ONE OF THEIR OWN, IT WILL BE COSTLY TO MAINTAIN A FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVE. THEY WILL TRY TO WORK OUT SOME SOLUTION.
LUCEY

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